

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-20 NSC-10 SSO-00 NSCE-00 RSC-01

DRC-01 /045 W

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O 031257Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1072

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 0038

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, IS

SUBJ: SUGGESTED CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE FROM
PRESIDENT NIXON TO PRIME MINISTER MEIR

1. I WONDER IF IT MIGHT NOT BE APPROPRIATE FOR THE PRESIDENT TO SEND MRS. MEIR A CONGRATULATORY LETTER ON THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE ISRAELI PEOPLE IN CONDUCTING A DEMOCRATIC ELECTION I THE AFTERMATH OF THE LAST MID EAST WAR. IN VIEW OF FACT THAT LABOR ALIGNMENT, ACCORDING TO PRESENT PREDICTIONS, HAS LOST SIX SEATS, ALL VOTES ARE NOT YET COUNTED, AND IT IS NOT YET ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN THAT MRS. MEIR WILL BE ABLE TO FORM A NEW GOVERNMENT, I THINK IT WOULD BE PREMATURE TO PHRASE SUCH A LETTER IN TERMS OF A PERSONAL VICTORY.

2. I MAKE THIS SUGGESTION SOMEWHAT HESITANTLY SINCE, TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE, MY RECOMMENDATION RE USG STATEMENT PRIOR TO THE ELECTIONS WAS NOT ACCEPTED (TEL AVIV 10503). THIS SUGGESTS THAT THERE IS CONSIDERABLE SENSITIVITY IN WASHINGTON TO POSSIBLE CHARGE OF " INTERFERING" IN ISRAELI DOMESTIC POLITICS OR COMMENTING THEREON. I OBVIOUSLY DID NOT SHARE THIS CONCERN AT THE TIME I MADE THE RECOMMENDATION. I ALSO DO NOT BELIEVE THAT A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT SUCH AS I SUGGEST IN THIS TELEGRAM COULD CAUSE US ANY PROBLEMS IN THIS RESPECT.

3. I SUPPOSE IT CAN BE ARGUED THAT ANY KIND OF CONGRATULATORY LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT TO MRS. MEIR SHOULD AWAIT THE COUNTING OF ALL THE VOTES. THE VOTE COUNT WILL BE COMPLETED BY THIS COMING SUNDAY.

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I SHOULD NOT THAT FORMATION OF A NEW GOVERNMENT APPEARS TO BE STILL

WEEKS AWAY. ON THE ASSUMPTI*N THAT MRS. MEIR WILL SUCCEED IN FORMING THIS GOVE*NMENT, A CONGRATULATORY LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE AT THAT TIME. IN THE MEAN*IME, SHOUL* THE DEPARTMENT AGREE THAT E SHOULD RECOMMEND THAT THE PRESIDENT SEND *A MESSAGE IN THE IMMEDIATE AFTERM*TH OF THE6ELECTION, I WOULD PROPOSE THE FOLLOWING TEXT.

4. START TEXT: DEAR MADAME PRIME M*NISTER. I WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND MY SINCERE CONGRATULATIONS TO YOU, YOUR COLLEAGUES IN THE POLITICAL ARENA AND THE PEO*LE OF ISRAEL FOR HAVING PROVEN ONCE AGAIN, IN THE CONDUCT OF THE KNESSET ELECTION, THAT ISRAEL STANDS AS A BEACON OF DEMOCRACY. IT IS A TRIBUTE TO ALL ISRAELIS THAT, IN THE WAKE OF A MOST

DIFFICULT WAR, YOUR COUNTRY HAS DEMONSTRATED TO THE WORLD THAT IT REMAINS DEDICATED TO THE PRINCIPLES OF DEMOCRACY AND THE IDEAL THAT A GOVERNMENT DERIVES ITS JUST POWERS FROM THE CONSENT OF THE PEOPLE. END TEXT.

5. I HAVE JUST SEEN STATEMENT IN TODAY'S WIRELESS FILE BY WHITE HOUSE AIDE WARREN THAT PRESIDENT WOULD BE SENDING*CONGRATUATORY MESSAGE TO MRS MEIR RE ELECTIONS. IF MESSAGE NOT ALREADY SENT, I BELIEVE OUR SUGGESTED TEXT WOULD BE HELPFUL. IN UNLIKELY EVENT MRS MEIR NOT RPT NOT ABLE FORM A GOVERNMENT ANYTHING THAT WENT BEYOND SUGGESTED TEXT PARA 4 COULD PROVE TO BE EMBARRASSING.
KEATING

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Message Attributes

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Concepts: CEREMONIAL MESSAGES, ELECTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 JAN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: TEL AVIV
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Markings:

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30 JUN 2005

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